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UNHCR ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS:
REPORT FOR 1994-1995 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMMES AND
BUDGET FOR 1996

PART I. AFRICA

Section 12 - Liberia

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

I.12 LIBERIA

1. Beneficiary population

1. At 31 December 1994, Liberia hosted approximately 120,000 mostly Sierra Leonean refugees, and 162 refugees of various other nationalities. Most of the Sierra Leonean refugees originate from the south-eastern part of their country, are of rural background, and belong to either the Vai or Kissi ethnic group. The continuing conflict in Sierra Leone resulted in new influxes of Sierra Leonean refugees. However, because the security situation does not allow access to their area of residence, their number cannot be verified. An estimated 65,000 live in Upper Lofa, 30,000 in Cape Mount and Bomi, 15,000 in Montserrado and 10,000 in other counties. UNHCR currently has regular access to some 25,000 Sierra Leonean refugees and 48 urban refugees in Monrovia and surrounding areas and periodic access to the other 95,000 when the security situation permits. In 1994, UNHCR also assisted some 6,700 Liberian returnees. As refugees and returnees live in areas of mass displacement, UNHCR has been providing assistance to them and to some 100,000 internally displaced Liberians as well.

2. Developments in 1994 and 1995

2. During 1994, all efforts to find a negotiated settlement to the conflict in Liberia failed, and the country remained politically divided. As the security situation deteriorated further in mid-September, in particular in the north-eastern region, all relief activities were suspended, and the UNHCR Sub-Office in Gbarnga, after operating for only six months, was closed.

3. UNHCR so far has had limited access to the refugees and returnees in the Economic Community of West African States Military Observer Group (ECOMOG)-controlled area, Monrovia and its surroundings. The recent expansion of ECOMOG control allowed UNHCR to have access to more refugees in Bomi and Cape Mount counties. However, approximately 60,000 Sierra Leonean refugees in Upper Lofa have been cut off from any relief assistance since the end of 1993. An assessment mission that managed to reach Upper Lofa in August 1994 reported widespread malnutrition and a deteriorating health situation among the refugees and displaced population. Several attempts to resume the relief operation in Upper Lofa, including a cross-border operation from Guinea, have been unsuccessful due to security problems.

3. 1996 country programmes

(a) Objectives

4. As a large-scale repatriation of Sierra Leonean refugees is not likely to occur in the foreseeable future, UNHCR will continue to provide care and maintenance assistance to Sierra Leonean refugees in Liberia. In the event that

the security situation improves in Upper Lofa, the current care and maintenance programme will be augmented to provide life-sustaining assistance for the refugees in Upper Lofa. Priority will be given to provision of food and water, improvement of health/nutrition, and rehabilitation of roads and community infrastructure.

5. The relative security in Monrovia has encouraged individual refugees who were evacuated to Côte d'Ivoire in 1992 to return. Lack of economic activities in Monrovia requires the continuation of the current care and maintenance programme for urban refugees. UNHCR will nonetheless promote income-generation activities to enhance the refugees' self-reliance.

6. While no large-scale organized repatriation of Liberian refugees is in sight, UNHCR will continue to assist spontaneous returnees under the special programme. In 1995, a total of 4,123 have already repatriated during the first five months, and it is expected that this trend will continue in view of the prevailing security conditions in the neighbouring countries of asylum.

7. UNHCR will continue to provide assistance to affected internally displaced persons in Liberia where refugees and returnees are living in the same area. Provision of non-food relief items, rehabilitation of infrastructure and promotion of quick impact projects (QIPs) will benefit refugees/returnees and internally displaced persons.

(b) Proposed budget for 1996

(i) General Programmes

8. If the volatile political situation in Liberia continues and UNHCR's access to the refugees remains sporadic, budgetary requirements for the care and maintenance of refugees will have to be reviewed.

(ii) Special Programmes

9. The initial proposal for the Liberian returnees under the Special programme in 1996 is based on the scenario that an organized repatriation will take place and UNHCR can implement QIPs and other rehabilitation activities in the places of origin. The budgetary estimate is made for 35,000 returnees. This will be reviewed regularly to take account of the political situation.

<u>Sector</u>	<u>Initial 1996</u>
Transport	2,415,400
Domestic needs	2,205,000
Water	100,000
Health	700,300
Shelter	210,000
Community services	75,000
Education	803,000
Livestock	596,000
Legal assistance	19,000
Agency operational support	<u>27,500</u>
<u>Total</u>	7,151,200

(c) Implementing partners

10. The Government counterpart, the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission, is UNHCR's main implementing partner for all assistance projects and coordinates relief activities of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)-Belgium, Save the Children Fund (SCF)-United Kingdom and MSF-Netherlands withdrew from Liberia and were not operational during 1995. Lutheran World Federation/World Service continues to be UNHCR's implementing partner in various sectors. A number of local NGOs are actively involved in the UNHCR assistance programme for refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons.

(d) Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs

11. Variations due to changes in budget parameters are not discussed in the subsequent analysis (Overview of UNHCR Activities, Part I (A/AC.96/845) refers)

(i) 1994 expenditure (all sources of funds)

12. The 1994 expenditure was considerably less than revised estimates due to the fact that the UNHCR Sub-Offices in Vahun and Gbarnga were closed and the newly created posts not filled.

(ii) Revised 1995 requirements (all sources of fund)

13. The revised 1995 requirements are significantly lower than the initial estimates, since 32 posts were discontinued effective 31 December 1994. Expenditure is expected to remain low because of the continued impossibility of operating from the Sub-Offices of Vahun and Gbarnga, for which provisions were made in the event that repatriation would be possible.

(iii) Initial 1996 requirements (all sources of funds)

14. The 1996 requirements are not significantly different from the ones foreseen for 1995. With the prevailing uncertain situation in Liberia, the initial budget has been predicated on the assumption that political events will dictate that the operation remains at the status quo.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN LIBERIA

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1994	1995	1996		
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION

GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)				
1,563.0	1,310.4	2,007.2	CARE AND MAINTENANCE	2,007.2
675.0 a/	—	500.0 b/	VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	—
2,238.0	1,310.4	2,507.2	SUB-TOTAL OPERATIONS	2,007.2
2,238.0	1,310.4	2,507.2	TOTAL (1)	2,007.2

SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)				
55.8	55.8	—	EDUCATION ACCOUNT	—
114.0	34,020.0	4,859.0	REPATRIATION/RETURNEE PROGRAMME	7,151.2
1,825.2	2,854.0	1,360.1	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	1,195.0
281.4	477.1	381.8	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	381.7
173.2	—	—	OTHER TRUST FUNDS Various assistance	—
2,449.6	37,406.9	6,600.9	TOTAL (2)	8,727.9

4,687.6	38,717.3	9,108.1	GRAND TOTAL (1+2)	10,735.1
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a/ obligation incurred against the General Allocation for Voluntary repatriation
b/ allocated from the General Allocation for Voluntary Repatriation